

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 02248 150016Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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R 142222Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9142
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS LIMA 2248

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, PE
SUBJECT: MORALES BERMUDEZ INTERVIEW IN SAO PAULO NEWSPAPER

1. ALL OF LIMA'S MAJOR DAILIES CARRIED PROMINENT COVERAGE
MARCH 13 OF EXCERPTS OF AN INTERVIEW OF PERUVIAN PRESIDENT
FRANCISCO MORALES BERMUDEZ CERRUTTI WHICH APPEARED RECENTLY IN "FOLHA
DE SAO PAULO." THE AFP ITEM EMPHASIZED THE PRESIDENTS
JUSTIFICATION OF PERU'S RECENT PURCHASE OF MODERN MILITARY
EQUIPMENT, AND PERU'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS TOWARD ITS
NEIGHBORS. MORALES BERMUDEZ ALSO INDICATED HIS SUPPORT
FOR THE AMAZON PACT, AND REFERRED TO RELATIONS WITH CHILE
AND BOLIVIA.

2. QUESTIONED ABOUT PERU-CHILE RELATIONS ON THE EVE OF
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR OF THE PACIFIC, THE
PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID "LET'S NOT THINK ONLY OF
CHILE, BUT OF PERUVIAN FOREIGN POLICY, SINCE IT IS RELATED
TO THE CLIMATE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL WAREFARE AGAINST PERU THAT
WAS CREATED ABROAD WHEN WE BOUGHT THE MODERN MILITARY
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EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO THE DEFENSE OF A TERRITORY AS GREAT
AS OURS." HE DENIED THAT PERU IS CONSIDERING AN OFFENSIVE
OR DEFENSIVE WAR, BUT RECOGNIZED THAT THE YEAR 1979 WILL
SYMBOLIZE AN UNHAPPY ANNIVERSARY FOR PERU. HE ADDED THAT
PERU HAS NO THIRST FOR REVENGE.

3. REGARDING BOLIVIA'S LAND-LOCKED SITUATION, HE DECLARED,

"PERU ACCEPTS AN EVENTUAL CESSION OF A SOVEREIGN CORRIDOR NORTH OF ARICA TO BOLIVIA, CONDITIONED ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AREA OF SHARED SOVEREIGNTY AMONG THE THREE PARTIES, THE TRINATIONAL ADMINISTRATION OF ARICA, THE CREATION OF A DEVELOPMENT NUCLEUS."

4. COMMENT: MORALES BERMUDEZ' REMARKS APPARENTLY CONTAIN NO SURPRISES. HIS REMARKS ABOUT PERU'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS TOWARD ITS NEIGHBORS ARE FAMILIAR FARE AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION IN THE MEDIA. THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED FOR PERU'S ACCEPTANCE OF A BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR ECHO THE GOP POSITION TAKEN IN NOVEMBER 1976.
FOR SAO PAULO: WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMPLETE PORTUGUESE TEXT OF INTERVIEW.

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